

## The Chancellor's Column.

Advice is asked for the young women of the University, about "going into society." The tone of the request suggests that the advice is expected to be such as to dissuade young women from entering society. The invitation is declined—with thanks.

For two reasons. First, the writer believes that the social side of life, and of University life, ought not to be neglected. Second, it is not understood that young women are indulging in "social recklessness" alone. There is very apt to be a young man involved. There is no reason, therefore, why the arrow should fly in one direction only; unless it be that the condition of affairs is such that sent in one direction it is quite liable to hit both parties in interest.

It has been more than once asserted in these columns that the strength and value of the University lie in the fact that it is not only a preparation for life, but is the beginning of life. Whenever this latter condition is clearly understood and fully accepted, there will be a loss of traditions whose room is really worth more than their company, and of some customs which are narrowing and hampering rather than otherwise.

The questions for each student to settle, therefore, about society are precisely those which young men and young women must settle when they have taken hold of life with the earnestness and sincerity which ensure success. And these questions are, How much time shall I give to society? What shall "society" mean to me?

Every young professional man and every young business man knows that if he is to succeed he must work hard, very hard, during the first few years at least. There is a sort of momentum that can be secured, a reputation that may be earned, that will enable one to carry work easier by and by. But at the start, and that means for the first ten years at least, one must study his work carefully, can rarely lay it aside, must keep close company with it by day and almost by night; until it

has really become part of himself. He may not neglect social duties or pleasures; but his indulgence will be moderate, almost to the point of asceticism. The "good times" are few and far between. They have not been earned yet; the future is not yet even reasonably assured. The earnest young fellow who is striving to achieve, to reach the top, never thinks that there ought to be but five working days in the week and but nine working months in the year; much less does he desire or feel willing or able to expand these holidays by frequent evenings so spent as to detract from his efficiency and from the value of the work of the day following.

The student ought to have much the same feeling; and is only reasonably sure of success when he finds social demands playing a very secondary part indeed in his life. He may not become a recluse—that is as unwise and narrowing as the other extreme. But he will surely master his social impulses rather than permit them to master him. It is not, as it is sometimes put, a choice between musty books and midnight oil, and converse with one's fellows. It is a choice between continuous and wisely-directed activity, and hours of careless and thoughtless existence.

As to the second question, What shall "society" mean to me? it simply implies that there is society and there is society. To run into a neighbor's once or even twice a week for a half hour's chat after supper, and before the work of the evening is begun; a half dozen persons, or more even, meeting in the same easy and informal way once or twice a month, for an entire evening, after the labor of the week is done; to occasionally (rarely) enjoy an opera or a play or a lecture by twos or groups—all this is one thing. But the more formal gathering, notice of which is by cards, a week or two weeks in advance; preparation for which occupies time and fills the mind and often makes undue drain upon the purse; the gathering which lasts until far beyond the hours when honest men and women are seeking the rest necessary for honest work on the following day—this is another and very dif-